



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES CREATION OF 360 JOBS IN DURHAM
JDIG Helps Accountants' Organization Move to North Carolina

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) will move one of its main offices from New Jersey to Durham, creating 360 new jobs and investing \$5.2 million over five years. The nonprofit organization will become the 29th Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) recipient since Easley started the program in 2002.

“The decision of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to relocate these knowledge-based, high-quality jobs to North Carolina once again proves that we are making the right investments in education and workforce development,” Easley said.

The AICPA, which has its headquarters in New York City, is the national professional organization for certified public accountants. The organization provides its nearly 350,000 members with resources, information and leadership to enable them to meet the needs of employers, clients and the public.

Construction of an 80,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to begin early next year with completion expected by July 2006. The 360 new jobs will be professional positions such as CPAs, writers, computer programmers and database administrators, and will pay an average yearly salary of \$53,500 plus benefits. The average annual wage for Durham County is \$32,864, plus benefits.

AICPA President and CEO Barry Melancon said Durham offered many of the advantages the institute was seeking in its relocation. “The Raleigh-Durham area offers a premier labor market and significantly lower operating costs, as well as an exceptional quality of life for our staff,” he said. “We believe this is the right long-term decision for AICPA.”

Other partners who contributed to this project include the N.C. Department of Commerce, the N.C. Community College System, the City of Durham, Durham County and the Durham Chamber of Commerce.

Under the terms of the JDIG agreement, approved unanimously by the state Economic Investment Committee that oversees the program, a 12-year grant will be established. Over the life of that grant, the N.C. Department of Commerce estimates the project will:

- Generate a cumulative gross state product value of \$606 million.